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Thursday, January 17, 1952.

I had a bad cold this morning and stayed at home. David Nes brought me out a telegram from Dean as follows:

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"4125 January 16, 8 p.m.
Personal and eyes only for the Ambassador from the Secretary:

I have given a great deal of thought to the question of your returning as Under Secretary and to the timing of such a move. As I have told you, much as you are needed in France I believe there is even greater need for you here.

I have discussed this with the President and he is delighted to have you. Due to many factors, it may be desirable to send your name up the last of this week or early next week. I hope this will be agreeable to you. If it is not, please inform by telegraph or telephone.

Regarding timing of move, it seems to us that, barring unforeseen developments, you should plan return to United States following Lisbon meeting with of course reasonable time for returning Paris to attend any final matters. You could then take a vacation of a minimum of 2 weeks and assume your duties around the middle of March.

The question of your successor is not yet settled. I will be discussing this with the President in the next day or so and will let you know as soon as possible.

You know how deeply I appreciate your willingness join us and how great our need is for you. I look forward with deepest pleasure to our association."

I replied:

"4243 January 17, 7 p.m.
Personal and eyes only for the Secretary from Bruce.

Ref. Deptel 4125 January 16

Appreciate your telegram and confidence expressed by President and yourself and will cheerfully accept your ultimate decision. However must repeat, without reference to my own preference to remain here, that I personally believe in view of overall situation in NATO you are making mistake.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY CKC DATE 7-1-81
EDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REA'ON(S)
INDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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Quite apart from personalities, in the confused French political scene it would be almost impossible for a successor, no matter how familiar with European problems, quickly to establish relationships with what probably will prove to be a temporary French Government so as to promote our policies in complicated field of Franco-German relationships, North Africa, Indochina, etc.

I had hoped that the European Army and Contractual Agreement might have been completed before any such change was effected. There is of course no assurance that these matters will be ready for decision at Lisbon.

It would therefore seem to me preferable not to send my name to Senate so soon and also not now to make definite commitment regarding my successor.

If Lisbon meeting proceeds well I should think you would then be in better position to make final decision regarding my transfer if you still desired it.

If you did not wish transfer and I were required for testimony in Washington at any date I would of course be available, without disruption of continuity here."

Ernie Gross came to lunch with me and we talked of a United Nations matters. Next I had a visit from my old friend Bill Stoneman of the Chicago Daily News.

Later in the day, I saw David and Woodie, Paul Birdsall, Bob Thayer, Bill Tyler, Tomlinson, etc.

We were to dine to-night with Betty and Robert de Lesseps but were both too seedy to go.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/IDC/MR
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XD ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
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